

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/972,383

Applicant(s)

KUMAR ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Asfand M. Sheikh

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-41.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Acknowledgements***

1. The amendment filed 16-June-2006 has been entered. Claims 1-41 remain pending.

***Supplemental Reasons For Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement for the reasons for allowance.

The present invention is directed to a fulfillment management system for managing ATP data in a distributed supply chain environment. Each of the independent claims 1, 22, 39, 40 and 41 teaches the novel feature of a local database operable to store consolidated product availability information and the consolidated product availability information stored in the local database enabling the component quotation to be generated and communicated without retrieving product availability information from the plurality of ATP serves in response to receiving the at least one component ATP request.

3. The following reference has been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention(s). The prior art mostly relates to managing ATP data in a distributed supply chain planning environment.

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Kennedy et al. (WIPO WO 00/17795) teaches a fulfillment management system and method comprising: a database operable to store product availability information, and one or more processors collectively operable to: receive at least one component available-to-promise (ATP) request, each component ATP request corresponding to all ATP request line-item for a desired product, retrieve from the database at least a portion of the product availability information associated with the desired product for each component ATP request, determine an ATP response for each component ATP request using the retrieved product availability information, generate a component quotation for each component ATP request according to the corresponding ATP response, and communicate the component quotation for consolidation with other component quotations.

Kennedy et al. neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a local database operable to store consolidated product availability information and the consolidated product availability information stored in the local database enabling the component quotation to be generated and communicated without retrieving product availability information from the plurality of ATP serves in response to receiving the at least one component ATP request. Because the missing features are not found in a reasonable number of references, a person having ordinary skill

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in the art at the time the invention as made would have not have been motivated to combine the missing features with Kennedy et al.

4. The following United States reference has been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention(s). The prior art mostly relates to precise delivery of a customers orders based on actual capacity allocation distribution.

Borders et al. (United States Patent Application Publication 2001/0047285) teaches at least one database used for a fulfillment management system. The system receives at receive at least one component request and determine a response for each component request using the retrieved product availability information.

Borders et al. neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonable teach a local database operable to store consolidated product availability information and the consolidated product availability information stored in the local database enabling the component quotation to be generated and communicated without retrieving product availability information from the plurality of ATP serves in response to receiving the at least on component ATP request. Because the missing features are not found in a reasonable number of references, a person having ordinary skill

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in the art at the time the invention as made would have not have been motivated to combine the missing features with Borders et al.

5. There is no most relevant prior cited reference for Non-Patent Literature.

6. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments On Statement Of Reasons For Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asfand M. Sheikh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1466. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8a-4:30p.

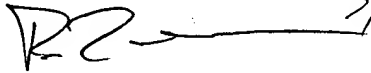
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan M. Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Asfand M Sheikh  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3627

ams  
17-Mar-07

 3/19/07  
E RYAN ZEENDER  
SUPERVISOR, ART UNIT 3627